

REMARKS

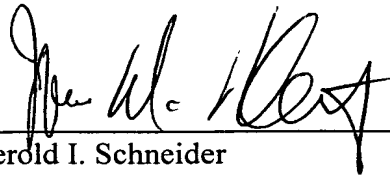
In response to an inquiry by Examiner Choobin concerning the requirement that the first dimension be at least five times greater than the second dimension, applicants submit amended Claims 1 and 13 for examination. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious amended Claims 1 and 13. Specifically, claims 1 and 13 both require subsets that have a first dimension larger than the second dimension. In contrast, the prior art relied on in the previous office action, Madsen and Chu, both disclose circular subsets.

Applicants have added new Claims 20 and 21 that recite the "five times greater" limitation. This limitation is particularly advantageous for scanner densitometers used in connection with electrophoresis because this dimensional limitation provides for good resolution between neighboring samples while maintaining the desirable result of capturing an entire sample in a virtual slit.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' counsel, James M. Heintz, at (202) 861-4167.

Respectfully submitted,

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